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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - September 19, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussion on the Constitution and Thoughts on A Possible Impending Civil War were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on September 19, 2005.
END SUMMARY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1A. "Effects Worse Than Catastrophe and Defeat!"](#) (Iraq 4 All News, 9/19)
- [1B. "Money"](#) (Al-Soat Al-Iraq, 9/19)
- [1C. "Toward an Emergency Plan to Avoid a Civil War in Iraq"](#) (Independent Iraqi News Agency, 9/19)
- [1D. "I'll Vote Against the Constitution"](#) (Al-Soat Al-Iraq, 9/19)

SELECTED COMMENTARIES

[1A. "Effects Worse Than Catastrophe and Defeat!"](#)
(Editorial by Khair Allah Khair Allah - Iraq 4 All News - <http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=9914> / Iraqi exile community website based in Denmark, not affiliated with any political party)

"Has the civil war started in Iraq? This might be the reality following the series of explosions on Wednesday that killed over 160. The least that could be said about these events is that they confirmed fears of an uncontrollable ethnic struggle. Anyone who wishes to be honest with themselves should face the facts and wonder whether it is still possible to salvage anything.

"The bloody events that continued days after "Black Wednesday" took place against a well-known background of events: Armed Shiite groups were killing local residents only because they were Sunnis; in return, suicide attacks similar to those that took place in Al-Kadhumiya on Wednesday continued to target large numbers of Shiites. Murderous instincts were unleashed in this chaotic state created by the Americans. This has attracted extremists from all over the globe, making any reasonable statement sound unacceptable.

"There is a reality that cannot be overlooked: despite Sunni representation in the government, the government has left Sunnis with the impression that they are continually marginalized. Whether it is right or wrong, this is the case and it should be confronted if any efforts are to be made to avoid a looming civil war. In other words, the presence of Shiite religious parties such as Al-Dawa and SCIRI has driven many Sunnis to support terrorism.

"This, in short, is the situation in Iraq; a situation that is entering the civil war phase, where Shiite parties in power have not found any way to respond to Zarqawi's terrorism other than sending armed militias to punish areas inhabited by Sunni majorities. All this is taking place in the absence of a clear American strategy-aside from exaggerated statements against Syria.

"If events continue on this course, it is hard to imagine how a civil war can be avoided, a war from which Arabs would find hard to keep their distance, especially with an increasing Iranian influence in the country. As for the constitution, it may prove useful for nothing other than fictional American achievements.

"It is truly a frightening situation. All indications point to an actual beginning of a civil war that will have a negative impact on Arabs more significant than those of the 1948 and 1967 defeats."

[1B. "Money"](#)
(Editorial by Mohammed Abdul Jabbar Al-Shaboot Al-Soat Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=15666> / Website run by Faili (Shi'a) Kurds, not affiliated with any political party)

"Prominent Iraqis and urban representatives come out of their meetings with the Prime Minister happy with the

blessing of meeting the most senior executive official in the state according to the Transitional Administrative Law and the draft constitution, and for hearing his sweet promises to look after their interests.

"It is a positive sign when government officials meet with citizens to discuss matters of mutual interest, and on top of that, distribute envelopes containing ten \$100 bills (\$1,000 U.S.-not local currency) which might raise some questions over the use of green American currency instead of the Iraqi multi-colored currency (please do not mix this up with multi-national forces).

"The only thing we can do here is guess. The first guess is that since the money was handed out in the Green Zone, it might be more appropriate to use a green currency which sends out a better environmental message; a second guess is that the amount will be of a smaller size and therefore easier to carry than the equivalent 1.5 million Iraqi dinars; another guess is that if the amount of money was not part of the Iraqi government's budget, then there is no need for it to be in local currency, and this particular guess raises a serious question about the source of these funds presented by the PM to his visitors: Do they come from his personal wealth or from public funds? If it is indeed from his personal wealth, then there is no problem, as generosity has always been a good quality. But again, where did this personal wealth come from, especially since we all know that the PM does not descend from a wealthy family?

"So I believe it would be rather useful for the PM to reveal the source of this wealth. Or perhaps these funds were presented by a charitable organization, and in this case, I believe the public would like to know where this money is being spent. If these funds are taken from the government's budget, then the public has the right to know, as does the Council of Ministers, or at least the Minister of Finance. Additionally, what are the criteria for choosing the people who receive these funds? Maybe the whole thing is nothing more than a personal friendly gift. If so, why doesn't the Iraqiya channel broadcast these friendly gestures to its viewers if they have nothing to do with the coming elections?"

1C. "Toward an Emergency Plan to Avoid a Civil War in Iraq" (Editorial by Mohammed Abdul Al'Atti - Independent Iraqi News Agency - <http://www.normal.iraq-ina.com/showarticles.php?id=1368>)

"The sectarian and ethnic congestion in which Iraqis live nowadays is casting gloomy shadows in Arab and Islamic countries. All who follow Iraqi affairs and these tragic events put their hands on their hearts and hold their breaths hoping they will not witness the day when civil war breaks out. But candid expectations are not enough, as they do not end the killing, diffuse the situation, or ease ever increasing tensions.

"The issue needs a practical effort proportional in size to the expected disaster if, God forbid, the disputing parties decide to use violence to settle matters that bilateral and multilateral talks fail to solve. Condemnation and warnings from religious authorities are not enough because they provide mere words that cannot be turned into tangible action. The issue needs a serious stance proportional to the enormity of danger; it requires responsible action that addresses the disastrous consequences which would result from sectarian and ethnic war. If it happens it will not only destroy Iraq, but it will extend to neighboring and regional countries throughout the Islamic world.

"The issue needs preemptive diplomacy and then an emergency plan so as to reduce the destructive loss from a possible disaster-a plan implemented by Iraqis with support and assistance from top scholars in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Gulf States, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey....etc. Isn't convening an International Islamic Conference to establish a plan like this something we need to contemplate and take advantage of before it is too late?"

1D. "I'll Vote Against the Constitution" (Editorial by Yousif Fadhil - Al-Soat Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieufs.php?id=15690>)

"Yes the Constitution has many merits, but it also contains many weak points. The most significant of these is the haste with which the constitution was written. The reason is not that Iraq needs a constitution; Iraq lived without a permanent constitution for long periods and nothing happened. It will not hurt us if we wait for another year to discuss its articles and research its unprofessional writers.

"The haste is because of the American agenda-not the Iraqi agenda! Therefore, Iraq ought to modify its conditions that currently serve the interests of the United States and those

currently in office!

"I think Iraq is not yet qualified for federalism. Iraq needs a long time to prepare and practice the democratic process if it is to enjoy positive results. A constitution is one of the fruits of democracy.

"I am sure the ratification of a flawed constitution will lead to instability, erratic actions, and damage to all of Iraq.

"I will participate in the electoral process because it is the civilized way to represent people in the state. I will respect the results even if they are against my vision and beliefs. I might be wrong. I will try to correct things in the future in a democratic way. Yes, there is a price to implement democracy and it must be paid, but it is less costly than the substitute-dictatorship!"

SATTERFIELD